MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The number of districts in which the rainfall was below normal (i.e. —20 per cent or less than the normal is 228 out of 364 Meteorological Districts in the country from where adequate rainfall data were available.

(b) According to the Memorandum received from the Govt, of Uttar Pradesh, 50 out of 57 districts have been affected due to drought in varying degrees. The Statement showing names of these districts is given below.

(c) Arrangements of distribution of seeds etc. for sowing alternative crops and late variety of paddy, bajra, torai is being made by the State Agriculture Deptt. Energy Deptt. of the State Government have made arrangements for supply of power for irrigation purposes.

(d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Statement

Names of the districts affected due to drought in Uttar Pradesh

1. Saharanpur
2. Muzaffarnagar
3. Meerut
4. Ghaziabad
5. Bulandshahr
6. Aligarh
7. Mathura
8. Agra
9. Etah
10. Bareilly
11. Badaun
12. Pilibhit
13. Mainpuri
14. Shahjahanpur
15. Moradabad
16. Rampur
17. Bijnor
18. Farrukhabad
19. Etawah
20. Kanpur (Nagar)
21. Kanpur (Dehat)
22. Fatehpur
23. Allahabad
24. Banda
25. Hamirpur
26. Jhansi
27. Lalitpur
28. Jalaun
29. Varanasi
30. Mirzapur
31. Jaunpur
32. Ghazipur
33. Ballia
34. Azamgarh
35. Chamoli
36. Garhwal
37. Uttarkashi
38. Tehri-Garwal
39. Dehra Dun
40. Lucknow
41. Unnao
42. Rae Bareli
43. Sitapur
44. Hardoi
45. Kheri
46. Faizabad
47. Gonda
48. Sultanpur
49. Pratapgarh
50. Bara Banki

Pesticide for tobaeco plants

3184. SHRl SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether pesticide protecting tobacco plants have been produced through new agricultural biotechnolo gy processes as appeared in the *News Time* of 13th July, 1987;

(b) whether it is a fact that intro duction of such technology in Gujarat

and Andhra Pradesh could greatly increase production and reduce pesticide use and thereby pollution; and

(c) whether similar technology has been developed by R&D units in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION" IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir. A bacterial gene active against some Lepidopterous pests has been incorporated in tobacco plant through genetic engineering mechanism. The pests feeding on leaves of such tobacco plants get paralysed and die. This work is under progress in the United States of America.

(b) It is too early to assess its influence under Indian conditions since the experiments are still inconclusive in U.S.A. itself.

(c) No, Sir.

Programme taken by KVK

31185. SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 89 Krishi Vigyan Kendras are functioning in the country for vocational training at grass-root level and if so, the details of the pro grammes;

(b) whether SC|ST and drop-outs are special target groups for this pro gramme;

(c) whether the transfer of Lab to Land Technology Programme launched earlier is now being handled by KVK; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the slogan Lab to Land has caught the imagination of farmers and officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE): (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir. Eighty-nine Krishi Vigyan Kendiras are functioning in the country for vocational training of the farmers, farm-women, young farmers and field level extension functionaries.

The KVKs are organising need-baaed training courses, both residential as well as in the villages for imparting technical literacy to the practising farmers and farm women. Annually about 6000 training courses are being organized benefitting over 1.5 lakh persons.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. The KVKs are among the Institutions which are also implementing the lab-to-land Programme.

(d) Yes, Sir.

National Demonstration Projects

3186. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Demonstration Projects have been operating in 48 districts and holding thousands of demonstrations on fields and supporting Oilseed Technology Mission and if so, the achievement madt so far in increasing oilseeds productivity; and

(b) whether National Demonstration Projects have been evaluated every 5 years as per ICAR system and if so, what is the result of last assessments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Demonstration Project is operating in 48 Districts in the country and organising annually 4800 demonstrations on major cereal crops in the farmers' fields. These projects are also organising block demonstrations on oilseeds in